

community, and avoid costly litigation over responsibility for protecting clean water. We can also restore bedrock protections for our citizens and our neighborhoods from polluters who place families and communities at risk.

Clean, safe water is a basic right for all Americans. Yet, unless we act, the Clean Water Act cannot ensure that right.

The New York Times reports that as a result of the Supreme Court decisions companies have spilled oil, carcinogens and dangerous bacteria into lakes, rivers and other waters without being prosecuted. EPA regulators working on those cases, estimate that more than 1,500 major pollution investigations have been discontinued or shelved in the last four years.

Data from 2008, the most recent year available, show there were over 20,000 beach closings and advisories that year due to pollution, and studies in the Great Lakes show that as many as 10 percent of beachgoers report getting sick after swimming in beach waters open for swimming.

Drinking water protection areas that contain one or more small or intermittent streams that would be vulnerable to pollution under the Supreme Court decisions provide drinking water to more than 117,000,000 people in the United States.

These examples demonstrate why we must act.

Two years ago I conducted a thorough hearing where I heard from two dozen witnesses on five panels of everything that was good and bad about my prior legislative proposal. I invited suggestions from any and all interested parties.

The bill I introduce today is a new bill that responds to those comments. It more clearly and specifically targets its one objective—addressing the SWANCC and Rapanos decisions, decisions I believe were wrongly decided.

Among the significant changes from my earlier bill:

To avoid the possible need for new regulations, the bill uses the current regulatory definition of “waters of the United States” to establish the scope of the Act.

The bill codifies an exemption for prior converted croplands.

The bill codifies an exemption for waste treatment systems.

The bill explicitly states that ground water is considered separately from “waters of the United States.”

The bill explicitly states that it does not affect the authority of EPA or the Corps as that authority existed prior to SWANCC in 2001.

The bill places limits on Federal jurisdiction by specifying the Constitutional authority for the Clean Water Act, and preserving the Federal/State cooperation that is the hallmark of the Act.

The bill removes all language related to “activities”. That term created unnecessary confusion on what would require a Clean Water Act permit. Since enactment in 1972, permits are required only for discharges.

The bill preserves the exemptions, limitations, and practices under the Act.

The bill includes multiple clarifying changes to emphasize that the bill will reaffirm and restore the original scope of the Clean Water Act, and not expand its geographic scope.

Opponents of legislation to restore the Clean Water Act characterize the restoration

as a mammoth expansion of Federal power. Restoring the Clean Water Act is only an expansion to the extent the Supreme Court ignored the intent of Congress and 30 years of precedent by narrowing the Act.

Opponents argue that the Federal government should not require a permit for everything you do that might affect a wet area. I agree. The Clean Water Act never required such permits and I do not offer legislation that would do so.

Simply put, if it was not regulated before 2001, it will not be regulated with the enactment of the legislation.

Some people have opposed the Clean Water Act for decades, and it should not come as a surprise that these same groups are using recent Supreme Court decisions as justification to roll back protections under the Clean Water Act. For the sake of future generations, progress must not be rolled back. We must advance the cause of clean water by sustaining the original purpose of the Act.

In 1972, Congress voted overwhelmingly to overturn President Nixon's veto of the Clean Water Act and to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Since that time, Americans have overwhelmingly expressed their support for protecting our Nation's waters and keeping them safe from polluters. The bill will restore America's commitment to clean water.

CARLOS REYES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Reyes who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Reyes is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Reyes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Carlos Reyes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX AND THE WINNERS OF THE 2010 SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Volunteer Fairfax, and more particularly the contributions that its volunteers make to our community. Volunteer Fairfax mobilizes people and resources to

meet regional community needs. Areas in which Volunteer Fairfax acts as a clearing-house and matches volunteers to community needs include literacy programs, homeless and poverty assistance, emergency response and recovery functions, senior citizen assistance, education, and many more.

I am honored to pay tribute to the following winners of the 2010 Volunteer Fairfax Awards:

Community Champion Award Recipients are: Braddock District: Jeff Root; Dranesville District: Maya Huber; Hunter Mill District: Jim Larson; Lee District: Jane Hilder; Mason District: Frank Vajda; Mount Vernon District: Linwood Gorham; Providence District: Tysons Corner Center Employees Springfield District: Mike Thompson, Jr.; Sully District: Verdiana Haywood; Fairfax County At-Large: Chris and Lisa Bright.

Competitive Award Recipients are: Adult Volunteer Over 250 Hours: Kevin Takeguchi; Adult Volunteer Under 250 Hours: Campbell “Cam” Gibson; Adult Volunteer Group: Digital TV Volunteer Team Family Volunteer: Renee and Sean McGinnis; Senior Volunteer: Ibrahim Barsoum; Volunteer Program: Homestretch Volunteer Program Youth Volunteer: Simrun Soni; Youth Volunteer Program: McLean Local Heroes; Corporate Volunteer Group: Excella Consulting; Rising Star: Zack Sanders.

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Betty Powell.

Benchmark Award Recipients: A number of other individuals are being honored for significant contributions of time and energy to dozens of volunteer organizations in Northern Virginia. I congratulate and thank each of the Benchmark Award Honorees for their commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Volunteer Fairfax. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia as a community as well as life-changing services to the individuals in need.

CONGRATULATING THE 2010 ARAPAHOE COUNTY ICE WARRIORS PEE WEE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the accomplishments of the 2010 Arapahoe County Ice Warrior Pee Wee Hockey Team. The Warriors fought to win the AA Colorado State championship and gallantly represented Colorado in the U-12 National Championships in Reston, Virginia. The high standards which the team met are, undoubtedly, representative of the passion and excellence found throughout my district.

The warriors withstood a Colorado Springs Jr. Tiger hockey team to win the State championship 3-2 thanks in large part to the offensive prowess of Josh Pusar, Zackary Dym, Jake Dosen, Brandon Yi, Patrick Wicker, Andrej Lysak, Jack Jordan, Josh Fiegl, Andrew McCulley, and Ian Aylmer.

Despite continually facing older, larger and more experienced teams, the boys outthusted